

it *P. Gyllenhalii*. As, however, *P. reticulata* Boisd., was founded on the female example of the same species, that name must take precedence. At present, I am ignorant of the true identity of *P. mirabilis* Kirby.

P. mirabunda Gyll.—Dohrn had before him three specimens, which he designated as Nos. 5, 6, and 7. No.5, ♂, bears a label: "*Phalid impressa*, Dupont. N. Holl. Dupont"; and, while in a bad condition, bears evidence of dense elytral clothing. No.6, ♂, bears two labels: "Tasmania" and "Mus. Gall." No.7, ♀, is Gyllenhal's type.

Dohrn, after considerable discussion of the question, came to the conclusion that No.5 = *P. impressa* Boisd., Nos.6 and 7 = *P. mirabunda*; and he states that possibly, through long life and abrasion, the one might be reduced to the condition of the other. This is my own opinion, and I have little hesitation in stating that *P. mirabunda* Gyll., = *P. impressa* Boisd.

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS. No.15. ON
A PLANT, IN FRUIT, DOUBTFULLY REFERRED
TO *CYMODOCEA*.

By J. H. MAIDEN AND E. BETCHE.

(Plate xlix.)

POTAMOGETONACEÆ.

CYMODOCEA(?) CILIATA (Forsk.) Ehrenb.

Murray Island, Torres Straits; (Charles Hedley, September, 1907; and specially brought under our notice by Mr. A. H. S. Lucas).

The fruit and floral organs of this species have never been previously obtained, and a description of the mature fruit will be therefore of interest.

Fruit-carpel solitary, on a thick stalk nearly 20 mm. long, ovate-globular, compressed, about 17 mm. long and slightly less broad, crowned by the thick persistent base of the style, of soft coriaceous texture and densely covered with short soft prickles thickened at the base. At full maturity the carpel opens at the top in more or less deep slits, forming irregular teeth or lobes, from a few to 8 or 9 in number. Seeds 1 to 3 in the carpel, attached laterally, roughly globular, but of irregular shape and somewhat umbonate, about 10 mm. in diameter; testa thin; embryo slightly curved.

Ascherson and Gräbner describe the fruits of Potamogetonaceæ in "Das Pflanzenreich" (1907) in the following words: "Fructus drupacei vel pericarpio membranaceo, maturi non dehiscentes, monospermi."

From the above description, and from our description and figure of the fruits of *Cymodocea ciliata*, it will be seen that the position of this species is abnormal, not only in the genus *Cymodocea*, but also in the Family *Potamogetonaceæ*; the plurality of seeds being without precedent in the Family. We found three seeds in one of the old open fruits, two seeds in another one, and one seed in an unopened fruit which we figure in longitudinal section (fig. G). The question now arises, should the species be removed from the genus, in spite of the great similarity of the vegetative organs to other species of *Cymodocea* whose floral organs are known? We think it would be premature to propose such a change in the present state of our knowledge of the plant; for both male and female flowers are still unknown, and it would be difficult to give its right position in the system without knowledge of the flowers.

There is a note on *C. zosterifolia* F.v.M., by the late Baron von Mueller, in the Victorian Naturalist for February, 1893, but the species to which we refer is not touched upon.

We are indebted to Mr. C. Hedley, F.L.S., for the following note upon his specimens—"I gathered the accompanying plants during the last week in September, 1907, on a mud-flat, at low water, on the western shore of Mer, the largest of the Murray Islands. Haddon* has recorded and figured the Murray *Cymadocea* as the food of the dugong. Observing this, I asked a native to point out to me the dugongi food—in pigeon English, 'You go catch'em proper kaikai belonga dugong.' He took me to a mud-flat just uncovered at low-water of neap tide, thickly grassed with *Zostera*. Hidden among the *Zostera* and evidently close cropped by the dugong, was the *Cymodocea*. The flowering-season had not long passed, but I was able to secure the fruits which you have examined."

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XLIX.

Cymodocea(?) ciliata (Forsk.) Ehrenb.

Fig. A.—Plant in fruit.

Fig. B.—Top of a leaf, magnified.

Fig. C.—Portion of a leaf still more magnified.

Fig. D.—Fruit-carpel.

Fig. E.—Fruit-carpel opened.

Fig. F.—Fruit-carpel showing two seeds.

Fig. G.—Vertical section of fruit-carpel.

Fig. H.—Soft prickles covering the carpel, magnified.

Fig. I.—Seed.

Fig. K.—Vertical section of seed.

* Haddon, "Head-Hunters, Black, White and Brown," 1901, pp.151-2, fig. 16.